

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CPR-02 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-20 EB-11 IO-12

DPW-01 IGA-02 M-03 A-01 SR-02 ORM-03 SSO-00 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9090

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PDEV VS

SUB: TRANSMITTAL OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT THIEU TO PRESIDENT NIXON

1. PRESIDENT THIEU HAS REQUESTED ME TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT NIXON:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT;

MARCH 26 TH, 1973 MARKS THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNING OF THE LAND- TO- THE- TILLER LAW IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-
NAM. ON THIS MEMORABLE OCCASION, I TAKE PLEASURE IN COM-
MUNICATING TO YOU THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR LAND REFORM, ONE OF
OUR TOP PRIORITY PROGRAMS FOR THE WELFARE OF THE RURAL PEOPLE.
THIS ALSO CONSTITUTES, IN MY VIEW, AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION, IN THE PRESENT IDEOLOGICAL
CONTEST IN VIET NAM.

UPON THE PROMULGATION OF THE LAND- TO- THE- TILLER LAW
IN 1970, I PLEDGED TO DISTRIBUTE FREE OF CHARGE 1,000,000
HECTARES (APPROXIMATELY 2.5 MILLION ACRES) OF LAND IN THREE
YEARS TO 800,000 TENANT FARMERS WHO ACTUALLY TILLED THE
LAND. TO DATE, 1,003,353 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN DISTRI-
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BUTED TO 858,821 FORMER TENANT FARMERS. OUR PLANNED GOAL HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND SURPASSED.

THE LAND- TO- THE- TILLER PROGRAM HAS REDUCED FARM TENANCY FROM AROUND 60 PERCENT THREE YEARS AGO TO ALMOST THE VANISHING POINT. IT HAS THUS UNDERCUT THE MAIN THEME OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA VIS A VIS THE RURAL POPULATION.

OUR FARMERS HAVE NOT BEEN MERELY PASSIVE RECIPIENTS OF GOVERNMENT LARGESSE BUT HAVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES. THEY ARE USING THE ADDITIONAL INCOME FROM THE SALE OF CROPS FORMERLY PAID IN RENT TO DEVELOP THE RURAL ECONOMY, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWTH OF THE NATION. OUR FARMERS HAVE NOW A NEW SENSE OF PERSONAL WORTH AND DIGNITY AND HAVE BECOME MASTERS OF THEIR DESTINY, FREE MEN WITH REASONS TO PRESERVE THEIR FREEDOM.

THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE ATTRIBUTABLE, IN NO SMALL MEASURE, TO THE DEDICATED SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER AND THE AMERICAN AID MISSION STAFF IN VIET NAM AND TO THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH YOUR GOVERNMENT.

FOR THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY, ON BEHALF OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, OUR DEEP GRATITUDE TO YOU, AND THROUGH YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I WISH ALSO TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE HELP AND SUPPORT FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO NOT ONLY COMPLETE THE LAND REFORM PROGRAM BUT TO HELP CARRY FORWARD VIGOROUSLY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIVE- YEAR RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN, WHICH WILL SOLIDIFY AND BUILD ON THE TREMENDOUS BENEFITS OF LAND DISTRIBUTION, AND OF OUR POST- WAR RECONSTRUCTION PLAN WHICH IS TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH IN AREA OF PEACE.

SINCERELY YOURS,

NGUYEN VAN THIEU.

END TEXT.

BUNKER

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